



STATE SENATOR  
**VANETA  
BECKER**

INDIANA STATEHOUSE  
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

[www.in.gov/S50](http://www.in.gov/S50)

Prst Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 7767



STATE SENATOR  
**VANETA  
BECKER**

Serving District 50 in Vanderburgh  
and Warrick Counties



## Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline

Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use. If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at [www.indianaconsumer.com](http://www.indianaconsumer.com).

miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

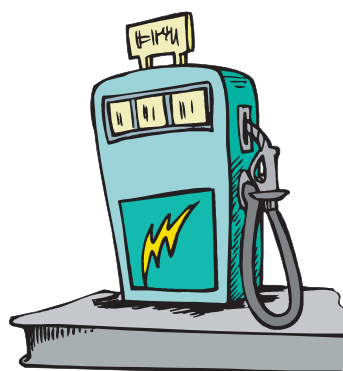
**Use Cruise Control:** Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

**Use Overdrive Gears:** Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

**Check & Replace Air Filters:** Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

**Keep Tires Properly Inflated:** Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

**Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil:** Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



**Drive Sensibly:** Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

**Observe the Speed Limit:** Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

**Avoid Excessive Idling:** Idling gets zero

*How to contact  
Senator Vaneta Becker*

200 W. WASHINGTON ST.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

CALL, TOLL-FREE:  
1-800-382-9467

E-MAIL VIA MY WEB SITE AT:  
[WWW.IN.GOV/S50](http://WWW.IN.GOV/S50)

*Join me at one  
of the following  
town hall meetings*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11  
5:00-6:30 P.M.  
OAKLYN LIBRARY IN EVANSVILLE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13  
5:00-6:30 P.M.  
NEWBURGH CENTRAL LIBRARY





↑ Senator Becker addresses the full Senate to offer her opinion on a bill presented in the 2006 session.

## Did You Know...?

... thanks to Major Moves, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties will see an estimated \$249 million in highway construction over the next 10 years (\$162 million for Vanderburgh County and \$87 million for Warrick County)? That total does not include construction of I-69 and more than \$4 million for local projects.

... that because of a responsible budget passed by the General Assembly, the governor has pledged to repay all delayed payments to schools? This includes:

- Warrick County School Corp: \$1,150,476
- Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp: \$3,124,161

... the Senate, by spending its own budget wisely, was able to give \$903,572.84 back to the state's General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2006. This is more than four times the amount reverted in FY 2005. That year, the Senate returned \$216,697.60.

# Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

- American General Financial Services expanding its corporate headquarters to create 150 new jobs in Evansville
- Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg

burg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)

- American Commercial Lines agreeing to create 1,100 jobs in Jeffersonville
- Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis
- Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis
- Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute
- Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.
- Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility
- Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

## MAJOR MOVES MEANS MAJOR MONEY

Southern Indiana to benefit from lease of Toll Road

Major Moves, the governor's plan to fund a decade of highway construction, is now a part of Indiana history, and the state is starting to see benefits. The biggest boost to Southern Indiana comes in the form of \$700 million toward the construction of I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis.

Vanderburgh and Warrick counties will also receive payments of \$3.1 million and \$1.3 million, respectively, for use on local road projects.

On June 28, Indiana closed a lease with Statewide Mobility Partners, which will operate the Indiana Toll Road in exchange for \$3.8 billion. That money has been deposited and is currently earning interest at a rate of about \$500,000 every day. For an up-to-the-second look at how much interest has been accrued, visit [www.in.gov/tos/MajorMoves.htm](http://www.in.gov/tos/MajorMoves.htm).

In addition to providing a quality investment for Indiana, the Major Moves program has already paid off in attracting business. Infrastructure is vital for the growth of business. Several distribution centers have begun choosing Indiana as a place to do business, and Honda cited Indiana's superior infrastructure as a reason for locating its plant in Greensburg.

And despite claims that the quality of the Indiana Toll Road in northern Indiana would deteriorate, we are already seeing signs that Interstate 80-90 will improve under the supervision of a private firm. The Indiana Toll Road Concession Company has already announced plans to improve customer service by hiring 50 more toll booth operators. It is also on schedule to install electronic tolling nearly six months ahead of schedule.

## FOCUS SHIFTS TO EDUCATION

Balanced Budget Could Fund Full-Day Kindergarten

In 2005, the General Assembly made an important change to the way our K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that allows a school's appropriations to rise and fall in proportion to enrollment.

In other words, dollars now follow the child rather than being arbitrarily given to corporations. This is a smart way to fund schools that served as a jumping-off point to improving Indiana's school system. This year, we passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, school buses, and other needs of the school or classrooms. Currently, only 61% of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

In 2007, I expect to see many more school issues brought forth. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten. Most states now fully or partially fund all-day kindergarten (FDK). Experts agree that the additional hours of learning FDK offers puts children further ahead when they enter first grade. That allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.

FDK has been a long time coming in Indiana, but only because the funds have not been available. Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million every year. The budget deficit of years past has prevented the legislature from offering funding, but thanks to smart spending in the 2005 budget, some believe there is enough cash available to fund FDK.

Other education issues that I expect to see in-



↑ Senator Becker looks on as the Senate recognizes Greg Server (left). Last fall, Becker replaced Server, who retired after 22 years in the Senate.

clude school board elections, accountability in higher education, and increased emphasis on Core 40 might also appear in 2007. I look forward to these debates and will continue to cast my votes with the best interest of students at heart.

## Bring ID to Polls Nov.7

— Photo Identification Law Protects Integrity of Elections —

This November, Hoosiers will have the opportunity to exercise one of their most precious freedoms available—the vote. It is the Legislature's responsibility to adopt policies that protect our representative democracy by ensuring each vote cast is valid and legal. The General Assembly did just that during the 2005 Legislative Session, passing a law that requires that all to present a photo ID in order to cast a vote.

Years ago, poll workers knew the people in their precinct and had no reason to question someone's identity. Now, it is increasingly common for Election Day volunteers to live in another town or city than the one in which they are serving. The voter ID law gives poll workers a tool to verify a person's identity.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has agreed to grant photo IDs free of charge to those who cannot pay the \$9 fee. In order to better accommodate Indiana voters, BMV branches will be open the day before the election and

will remain open late on Election Day. Residents of state-licensed nursing homes are exempt from showing identification if the polling place is located inside the facility in which they live.



The bill also protects the rights of those who have a religious objection to being photographed.

Voters who show up at the polls without identification will be able to fill out a provisional ballot. They then will be required to visit the county clerk or election board's office and show an ID or object on religious grounds.

Photo IDs are required for many commonplace circumstances that Americans face every day, like renting a video or obtaining a library card. It only makes sense that a photo ID be required for something as important as voting.

For more information regarding Indiana's Voter ID law, visit [www.in.gov/sos](http://www.in.gov/sos) or [www.photoID.in.gov](http://www.photoID.in.gov).

## LEGISLATURE PROTECTS PRIVACY WITH NO-FAX LAW

Americans have always highly valued their right to privacy. Although not explicitly stated in the Constitution, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis interpreted over 100 years ago that people have "a right to be left alone". This right is probably more cherished now than ever. In today's fast-paced world, people want their free time to spend time with family and friends, not be bothered by solicitors and other unknown intruders.

The Indiana General Assembly again responded to this demand in 2006 by passing legislation that bans unsolicited fax advertisements. An unsolicited fax advertisement is defined as any material sent via fax machine, advertising any property, good, or service without prior consent. Most of the advertisements are sent through a third party. Not only are these unsolicited annoyances, they are expensive. These unwanted faxes cost Hoosier citizens and businesses a large amount of money in the ink and paper they had to waste to receive these faxes. The new law also allows the attorney general to recover penalties of up to \$1,500 for those who ignore the law. The funds from these penalties will be deposited in the consumer protection telephone solicitation fund.